Setting up of an Ordance Factory at Hazaribagh in Bihar

451. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred question 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether a decision to set up an Ordnance factory at Hazaribagh in Bihar has now been taken;

(b) if not, by when a decision in the matter will be taken; and

(c) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The setting up of an Ordnance Factory involves investment of a large magnitude. The proposal requires detailed scrutiny in terms of economic feasibility and utilisation of existing capacities in the country. It is not possible to indicate a timeframe within which the decision is likely to be taken as the proposal is linked up with the overall investment decision.

Subarnarekha ...rpose Project

452. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Subarnarekha multipurpose irrigation project has been targeted to be completed and the total acreage of land likely to be irrigated;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the total amount spent so far for the execution of the project;

(c) what would be the irrigation potential of three States i.e. Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal after completion of the Project, and

(d) how much power will be generated from the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project is expected to be completed by 1993-94 envisaging irrigation to an area of 1.58 lakh hectares in Bihar, 0.9 lakh hectares in Orissa and 5 thousand hectares in West Bengal. Out of the estimated cost of Rs. 983 crores, an expenditure of about Rs. 336 crores has been incurred upto March, 1988.

(d) Provision exists for installation of a canal power house at a later date.

Poll Reforms

453 SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the proposals for poll reforms and whether the proposals will be incorporated in the respective Acts governing and regulating the elections;

(b) the time by when a comprehensive legislation will be brought before the Parliament with regard to amendments to the Peoples Representation Act; and

(c) whether Political Parties and other Institutions in the country have been consulted in the matter, if so, what is the reaction of various Political Parties and whether Government propose to include their suggestions in the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Various proposals for electoral reforms are under active consideration. No final decision has been taken on the reforms to be introduced or the details timings of the amending legislation to be enacted.

(c) From time to time, different political parties have been giving expression to their views on electoral reforms. Government's intention is to consult the political parties before deciding upon the electoral reforms.

Transfer of Technology from U.S.S.R.

454 SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.S.R. have offered Transfer of Technology in a number of spheres;

(b) if so, the details of such offer and

(c) the progress so far made with regard to discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These include areas of Metallurgical and Materials, Chemical, Electronics and Computer, Building, Biomedical, and Electrical and Power industry. Agreements have been reached in some of the cases.

Electoral reforms

455. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised its proposals for the electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Popular Resistance Against Missile Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa

456. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that popular resistance to the proposal for establishing National Test Range at Baliapal and Bhagroi Blocks of Balasore district of Orissa is persistently growing; and

(b) if so, whether Government will reconsider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir, there is no change in the Government decision regarding setting up of National Test Range at Baliapal in district Balasore, Orissa.

Iodised Salt

457. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that iodised salt is being sold at a price higher than ordinary salt;

(b) whether Government are aware that poorer sections are not buying iodised salt due to higher price and also due to lack of knowledge; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that both the types of salt are sold at the same price?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) According to statistics available with the Salt Commissioner, the prices of Iodised salt is marginally higher than common salt are comparable. In order to maintain the prices of iodised salt, Government of India is providing 100 per cent subsidy towards the cost of Potassium Iodate, the chemical used for iodation of salt.